sity for the people of Uttar Pradesh hills and lend their support for creation of separate State for the Uttar Pradesh hills.

The Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha has passed a resolution and the Uttar Pradesh Government has recommended for the creation of Uttaranchal. I, therefore, request the Central Government to accept the will of the people and immediately announce the acceptance of the demand for creation of a separate State.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I request those who are raising their hand to put their hand down. I shall ow go in accordance with the list before me. Let us have this experiment today. If there is no list, we are subject to likes and dislikes and we may commit some mistakes. Now I call Shri Saifuddin Choudhury to speak.

SHRI HANNON MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, for the last three days, I have been giving the notice. You are not calling me.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Yesterday, there was almost an assurance for Mr. Hanan Mollah. For the last three days he has been trying to raise the matter. Young Members should not be discouraged. They should be encouraged.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is true that we shall have to encourage the hon. Members and the Chair is there not to discourage them. But we shall have to follow certain principles which will be applicable to all.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHRY (Katwa): I thank you for giving me time. I am raising a matter which will concern all the hon. Members of the House. This is an item which has appeared in the 'Indian Express' on 3rd December. It is about the custody deaths in Delhi. In the past 23 moths ten such deaths have occurred in the police custody. In a democracy when everybody is concerned about the human rights of our people, police are beating mercilessly and employing very merciless kind of torturing methods and forcing them to death. There are instances given where the custody deaths have taken place:

January, 1990 - Subhash Chand - Geeta Colony police Station.

June, 1990 - Shammu Khan - Seelampur polioce Station.

August, 1990 - Yogendra Pal Gupta - Model Town Police Station.

February, 1991 - Ramswaroop - R.K. Puram Police Station

March, 1991 - Reshna - Gokulpuri Police Station.

May, 1991 - Jagannath - Lahori Gate Police Station.

July, 1991 - Om Prakash Kaushik - Timarpur police Station.

August, 1991 - Jai Ram - Patel Nagar police Station.

November, 1991 - Mukesh Kumar - Kamla Market Police Station.

November, 1991 - Raghunath Kumar - GTB Enclave police station.

How can we remain silent when this kind of things are happening in the capital of our country? The hon. Leader of the House is here. I specifically demand that he makes an assurance in this House. Such things will condemn this country in the international community. Now he must make an assurance that he will have an investigation done into this matter, and identify who are the officers responsible for this kind of a behav-

iors. It has become a kind of perverted mentality to torture the people who are taken to the police station before they are condemned by the judicial process. We are not a police country. And in the capital if this happens, where do we go? Sir, I request you to be an investigation. If they do not do it, then the House must apply its mind to set up an enquiry in order to identify the culprits.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Zero hour is meant to bring important matters to the notice of the Government. And the Government definitely takes notice of that. We cannot expect the Government to answer suddenly. They take notice of it.

Secondly, if you feel that this is really a very very urgent matter and of great importance, it has happened very recently and the matter needs to be discussed on the floor of the House, there is a specific provision in the rules of procedure. You can employ that and bring the matter before the House.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: A propose to what you said I wanted to mention that we appreciate that there cannot be immediate response excepting in some cases when Arjun Singh is in good mood and he responds. But since yesterday, he is not do in it. I do not know why. There may not be immediate response. But the matters which the Chair allows to be raised, they are obviously important matters. Now, what is the response? Members are not informed as to what steps are being taken? There is no action taken. Action taken in Zero. At least not even a formal letter goes to the Member that we have looked into, even for matters under Rule 377. What is wrong? I do not know what is your experience?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): This is not true at all as far as matters under Rule 377 are concerned. Now, what the Zero Hour, we have not been able to inform the Members because 40 Members speak here, and the Ministers are not in a position to make statements on the floor of the House.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Make it meaningful. Otherwise, it also amounts to affront the Members and the Chair because the Chair is allowing these issues to be raised. Therefore, at least show a pretence of following the democratic tradition. I know what the replies will be, but at least let them come.

SHRI GULAM NABI AZAD: Zero Question Zero Hour zero reply. (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have brought a very important matter pertaining to human beings. According to you, they were tortured. The Government has taken note of it. The Government is very vigilant. They want to put the whole thing in proper order. Since the Government is very very vigilant, there is no need for pressing for it.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me submit one thing. In the Zero Hour generally urgent issues are being raised by the Members and on an issue like this - people are being killed in the police custody - the Government is totally silent and they are not responding to it. In Delhi ten people have been killed in the police custody and the Government will not respond to this. This is most unfortunate. We expect that the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should respond to this, at least to what is happening in Delhi.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: I will bring it to the notice of the Home Minister.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): When they were not in power, they created a hue and cry on one such an issue of death in police custody. But, now